

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00543 170711Z
ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7909
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0543

STATE FOR INR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR PFOR OTRA LA US
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PHONESAY SANTHAVASAY

1. LAO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED EMBASSY
THAT PHONESAY SANTHAVASY (AKA PHONESAY SANTAVASY) WILL
BE AMONG LAO OFFICIALS MEETING WITH PRESIDENTIAL
COMMISSION. A DIPLOMATIC SOURCE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING
BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PHONESAY:

A. PHONESAY IS AN ORIGINAL MEMBER OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (LPRP), AND HAS BEEN LISTED AS
SECRETARY OF LPRP PROPAGANDA SECTION 41 OF THE LAO
PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) CENTRAL COMMITTEE. IN 1976 HE
WAS A PATHET LAO LT. COLONEL AND IN 1957 WAS INTEGRATED
INTO THE ROYAL LAO ARMY AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE PSYWAR
STAFF. IN 1960 HE REJOINED THE PATHET LAO AND IN
DECEMBER OF 1961 REPRESENTED PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG IN
DISCUSSIONS WITH A VIENTIANE DELEGATION CONCERNING
SECURITY FOR A MEETING WITH SOVANNA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00543 170711Z

B. PHONESAY APPEARS TO BE A WELL TRAINED PROPAGANDIST
AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. IN 1962 HE WAS INSTRUCTOR AT
THE KOMMADAM OFFICERS SCHOOL AND THE NEXT YEAR BECAME
CHIEF OF THE DEUANIST G-2. HE MAY ALSO HAVE HELD THE
POST OF CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE XIENG KHOUANG REGIONAL
COMMAND AND HAS BEEN LISTED AS A MEMBER OF THE XIENG
KHOUANG LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE. IN

THE MID-1960'S HE RECEIVED MILITARY AND POLITICAL TRAINING IN COMMUNIST CHINA. BETWEEN JANUARY 1964 AND OCTOBER 1966 PHONESAY ALLEGEDLY WAS SENT TO NAKORN PHANOM DISTRICT IN THAILAND ON A SPECIAL MISSION.

C. PHONESAY WAS THE LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT DELEGATION LEADER TO THE ASIAN GAMES IN PHOM PENH IN 1966 AND IN 1969 WAS LISTED AS A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LAO PATRIOTIC YOUTH LEAGUE. IN JULY 1970 HE ACCOMPANIED SOUK VONGSAK TO VIENTIANE AS HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY.

D. PHONESAY CLAIMS TO BE A NATIVE CHAMPASSAK PROVINCE BUT ACTUALLY WAS BORN ON 1 MAY 1929 IN SISAKET PROVINCE, THAILAND. ONE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT HE SERVED AS A CAPTAIN IN THE ROYAL THAI ARMY UNTIL HE FLED THE COUNTRY AFTER COMMITTING ROBBERY. ANOTHER SOURCE CLAIMS HE WAS ACTIVE IN THE LAO COMMUNIST MOVEMENT AS EARLY AS 1955. MARRIED TO A VIETNAMESE (OR CHINESE) FROM HANOI, PHONESAY HAS SIX DAUGHTERS. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH, VIETNAMESE, MANDARIN, LAO AND THAI.

3. IN DECEMBER 1973 HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE LPF DELEGATION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE ACCORDS IN VIENTIANE. DURING EARLY 1975 HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE RETURN OF REFUGEES PROGRAM. IN AUGUST 1975 HE WAS RATHER SURPRISINGLY NOMINATED AS A "WORKER" MEMBER OF THE VIENTIANE PREFECTURAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE, AND WAS RESPONSIBLE IN THE COMMITTEE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00543 170711Z

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

2. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT TRANSMIT ANY ADDITIONAL DATA ON PHONESAY IT HAS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO BE USED AS BRIEFING MATERIAL FOR COMMISSION.

3. EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT TRANSMIT ANY DATA IT HAS ON SECSTATE INFORMATION OUNHEUAN PHOUAVATH WHICH COVERS THE YEARS 1961 TO PRESENT. OUNHEUAN WILL ALSO BE AMONG LAO MEETING IDENTIAL COMMISSION. VGRAN

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